

hawk boarded an outward bound ship, and kept with it till the California coast was sighted when it flew to land. During the voyage it lived on small birds which it left the ship to catch.

Can it be that the Hawaiian Hawk has learned of the spring and fall flights of plover, akekeke and other birds that migrate to and from the islands, and that it deliberately makes excursions to sea to capture them? Or are these two cases merely coincidences?

The writer has studied the flight of the Hawaiian Hawk on many occasions, and he does not for one moment believe in its ability to capture flying quarry. If the bird the hawk was eating when shot was actually a plover it must have been seized when on the water—evidence, so far as it goes, tending to prove that the plover sometimes rests on the ocean in its passages between the American and the Hawaiian coasts.

That the ducks occasionally rest on the ocean in their migrations. Mr. Andrews is able to state positively, as he saw a pair settle contentedly on the ocean a thousand miles from land as if for a long rest. — H. W. HENSHAW, *Hilo, Hawaii*.

Unusual Nesting Date of the Barn Owl (*Strix pratincola*). — During the fall and early winter of 1900 several Barn Owls established a residence in two or three large red oaks in our back yard. These trees were peculiarly fitted for such birds, as the ravages of time and the elements had produced several very large cavities in each tree. I had watched the birds, as best I could, with much interest. They were active only after nightfall. I expected to find a set of eggs in February. The nights were made hideous with their stentorian notes and I began to regard them as something of a nuisance but bore in mind the probability of a set of eggs entirely new to my collection, so I suffered the birds to remain unmolested. We have a number of domestic pigeons and their houses stood very close to the trees mentioned, but experience had shown the owls to be perfectly harmless and I had nothing to fear from this source. However, a pair of pigeons had nested for some months in a large cavity in one of the trees, from which they were driven by a pair of owls. This circumstance led me to look with more confident hope for a set in February. But my hopes were blasted. So I then thought it necessary to remove the trees; their dying condition demanded this course. They were cut on the 10th day of December, 1900, and on the 12th the woodmen while cutting the trees into sections found five eggs in the cavity heretofore referred to as the erst-while home of the pair of pigeons. Three of the eggs were irremediably cracked, the others badly so. They must have totally perished but for the mass of decayed vegetation, the accumulation of years, in the bottom of the hollow. This cavity was upwards of eighteen feet from the ground, about two feet in circumference, with a depth of three feet, and was on the north side of the tree, which stood directly south of the back porch and not more than thirty feet therefrom. One egg was fresh, two were infertile, and two were slightly incubated. I

preserved three, which present the following measurements: 1.80×1.35 , 1.71×1.36 , 1.74×1.36 . — R. W. WILLIAMS, JR., *Tallahussee, Florida*.

Nyctea nyctea on Long Island, New York. — Snowy Owls have visited Long Island in considerable numbers during the past winter. I have heard of their being either seen or killed at several different places and four fresh birds have been sent to me from Montauk Point, obtained on the following dates: December 31, 1901, January 6, 1902, January 21, 1902, and February 6, 1902. It is several years since these northern visitors have been so abundant. — JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR., M. D., *New York City*.

✓ *Belted Kingfisher* in the Island of Hawaii. — Early in November of 1901 Mr. Harry Patten of Hakelau informed me that a pair of Belted Kingfishers (*Ceryle alcyon*) had appeared in Hakelau Gulch, some fifteen miles north of Hilo. On the 27th of the month, Mr. W. K. Andrews of Honoumou visited the locality, and, finding only the female, secured her, kindly presenting the specimen to the writer. The other bird in the meantime had disappeared, having probably been killed.

As the second bird is reported to have been somewhat differently colored it was probably the male. It is hardly likely that the pair would ever have found their way back to the mainland and, had a kinder fate directed them to a more solitary spot, they might have survived and reared young to populate the islands. Most of the island streams contain small fish and shrimps, and there would seem to be no reason why the kingfisher should not thrive here, although its field would be limited.

So far as the writer is aware this is the first occurrence in the group of this or, indeed, of any kingfisher. Evidently the pair drifted down here from the mainland coast during the fall migration, and their occurrence here, like that of so many other American species, is purely accidental. Yet it is through just such accidents that the islands have received, from several sources, their avian inhabitants. — H. W. HENSHAW, *Hilo, Hawaii*.

A Winter Record for the Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*) in Berkshire County. — In 'The Birds of Berkshire County,' by Dr. W. Faxon and Mr. R. Hoffmann, the latest autumn date for this species is given as October 24, and the earliest spring record as April 10. We observed at Williamstown on December 12, 1900, a single bird which may have been wintering, and on April 6, 1901, the first Flicker arrived. — FRANCIS G. AND MAURICE C. BLAKE, *Brookline, Mass.*

The Winter Fringillidæ of New Brunswick. — The list of birds given below includes the members of the Finch and Sparrow family which occur in New Brunswick during the months of December, January, and February. During these three months migration is as nearly at a standstill as at any time during the year. This family is represented by more species than